

# California **GARDEN**

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1995    Volume 86 No. 1    \$1.50



# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Jan. 4 or Jan. 5 Jan. 5	<b>FOOTHILLS ADULT EDUCATION CENTER</b> Introduction to Native Plants for Landscape 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. Rm 12. Wed. 6:30-9:30PM. Thurs. 9AM-12 noon. 579-4795. Free. <b>THE HUNTINGTON</b> First Thursday Garden Talk & Sale 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. Gardens of North America. Thurs. 2:30PM 818/405-2141. \$7.50.
Jan. 7 & 8	<b>SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY</b> Rose Pruning Demonstration Balboa Park Rose Gardens. Sat. & Sun. 9AM Hands-on Pruning Techniques. Call 235-0004. Free.
Jan. 14-15	<b>THE ARBORETUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY</b> Baiko-En Bonsai Kenkyukai Show 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Sat. & Sun. 9AM-4:30PM. 818/821-3222. \$5.
Jan. 15	<b>SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY</b> "Mini Show" Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sun. 10:00AM-4:00PM
Jan. 15	<b>SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC.</b> Fruit Tree Pruning Lecture 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Dr. Natter. 2PM 310/544-1948. \$5.
Jan. 17	<b>★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION</b> Bus Trip Ambassador College & Gamble House, Pasadena. \$35 members, \$38 nonmembers. Call 232-5762
Jan. 31 to Apr. 18	<b>GROSSMONT ADULT SCHOOL</b> Flower Borders-Year Round Color 1100 Murray Dr., La Mesa. Rm. 51. 12 week series. Betty Newton. 6:30PM 579-4795. Series \$23.
Feb. 1 & 2 to May 24 & 25 Feb. 4-5	<b>FOOTHILLS ADULT EDUCATION CENTER</b> Landscape: Trees Shrubs & Flowers 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. Rm 12. Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30PM; Thursdays, 9AM-12 noon. Betty Newton, Instructor. Call 579-4795. 17 week series to May 25 & 25. \$23. <b>SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY</b> 48th Annual Show Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 1-4PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.
Feb 14 through March 7 Feb. 21	<b>★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION</b> American Style Basketry Classes Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Rm 104. Martha Rosenberg, Instructor. All natural materials. Pre-register call 232-5762. Tuesday series 9:30AM-2:30PM. \$40 nonmember, \$35 member each class. <b>★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION</b> Quarterly Dinner Meeting & Program Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Program: Patricia Hammer, Ivies and Topiaries in Your Garden. Reservations by 17th please. Information call 232-5762. Members \$5, Nonmembers \$6.
Every Day Series Monthly Series Every Month through May 95'	<b>THE ARBORETUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY</b> Theme: Romance in the Garden 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. For Jan. & Feb. schedule call 818/821-3222. Fees vary. <b>THE HUNTINGTON</b> "Plants of Fame and Fantasy" 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. Wednesdays MID-MONTH. 818/405-2160. Donation \$7.50.
Every Wednesday	<b>PALOMAR DISTRICT C.G.C.I.</b> Floral Design Forum San Diego Miramar N.A.S., Officers Club Ballroom. First Monday each month. 1-3PM Reservations call V. West 749-1920. Cost for each program at door, through May 1995 is \$8.
Every Saturday *Jan. 14	<b>LOS ANGELES STATE &amp; COUNTY ARBORETUM</b> Free Guided Tours 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Guided Walking Tours of Gardens. 11AM Call 818/821-3250.
Weekends 1995	<b>OFFSHOOT TOURS</b> One-Hour Plant Walks in Balboa Park Meet 10AM. Botanical Lath House. Canceled for rain or less than 4 attendees. 1st Sat. History Walk; 2nd Sat. Palm Walk; 3rd Sat. Tree Walk; 4th Sat. Desert Walk; 5th Sat. Tour del Dia. Free.
Weekly	<b>SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM</b> Canyoneers Outdoor Program Free guided nature walks. Information & brochure call 232-3821 Ext. 203.
Weekly	<b>SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDENS</b> Garden Events For lectures, tours and garden schedule call 805/682-4726.
Weekly	<b>SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN</b> Docent Tours Balboa Park at Organ Pavilion. Tues., Fri. through Sun. 10AM-4PM. 3rd. Tues.; free. Gate donation.
Weekly	<b>QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS</b> Fall Classes and Events 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Call for schedule 619/436-3036.

Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Mar./Apr. issue is Jan. 15.

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San Diego Floral Association  
for 84 Years

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Send all editorial material and change of address to:

*California Garden*

San Diego Floral Association  
Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park  
San Diego CA 92101-1619

*California* SINCE 1909  
**GARDEN**  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NO. ISSN 0008-1116

San Diego Floral Association  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park  
San Diego CA 92101-1619  
Monday through Friday  
10 a.m. to 12 and 1 to 3 p.m.  
619/232-5762

VOLUME 86

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On the cover, the flower in Jeanie Foord's drawing was called purple Anemone in England in 1906. Reprinted from *Decorative Plants and Flower Studies*, Dover Publications.

Single copies of the current issue of *California Garden* magazine can be purchased for a donation of \$1.50 at the locations listed.

CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION, INC., 447-8207, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA 91006  
MISSION HILLS NURSERY, 295-2808, 1525 Fort Stockton Drive, San Diego CA 92103  
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CALIFORNIA GARDEN (ISSN 0008-1116) is published Bi-Monthly for donations of \$7.00 per year or \$13.00 for two years, foreign delivery add \$6.00 per year, by San Diego Floral Association, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619. © San Diego Floral Association, 1992. All rights reserved. Second Class Postage paid at San Diego CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CALIFORNIA GARDEN, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619.

# POPPY-FLOWERED ANEMONES: A SPRINGTIME MUST

by Catherine L. Zinsky

THE POPPY-FLOWERED ANEMONE, *Anemone coronaria*, is the most commonly grown anemone in our area, and for good reasons. It's easy to cultivate, adds enormous color, joy, and flamboyance to the garden, and is an excellent cut flower.

*A. coronaria* emerges from a tuber, and a truly bizarre one at that. The tuber is about an inch or so in diameter and much resembles a small, lumpy stone. It is also about as hard as said stone. Upon first inspection the tuber appears to have no discernible top or bottom. It just looks like a . . . well, old stone.

So how does one plant it? It's a decision making process. The rule of thumb is: flat side up, rounded side down.

It's a given that half the tubers taken home will be nonconforming. Either the flat side will not be clearly evident or the rounded side won't be. Some will merely hint at a round or flat side. Take the hint. With those that utterly defy definition, looking rather like one-celled creatures going into mitosis, it becomes necessary that you call upon your experience, expertise, and judgement as a gardener, and simply plant them as they fall. At least the odds are fifty-fifty.



*Anemone coronaria*  
drawing by Catherine L. Zinsky

This anemone is fond of our slightly alkaline soil, and does exceptionally well in our Southern California climate. Plant them 1-2 inches deep. (I like to add a little bone meal and blood meal to the soil before planting.) Space your tubers 4-5 inches apart in full sun to filtered shade.

The De Caen and St. Brigid strains of *A. coronaria* are by far the best known. The De Caen hybrids are single-petaled, with flowers being 3-4 inches wide. The colors range from dark purple to bright red, rose, and white. The St. Brigid strain, on the other hand, is a double with slightly smaller flowers and less-intense coloration.

Both make exceptional cut flowers, being carried on stems 12-18 inches long. The vase life of *Anemone coronaria* is exceptionally long, which is why the poppy-flowered anemone is so popular with florists. The flowers, however, do close at night.

When picking anemones, always use a sharp knife or shears and cut off the stems close to the ground. If you pull or snap off the stems, you may tear the crowns of the tubers.

Cutting anemone flowers prolongs the flowering period of the bulb. A longer period of bloom also can be induced through successive plantings. *A. coronaria* does quite well as a pot plant too, its exuberant colors adding a buoyancy and springtime lift to any patio setting.

The bulbs can be found at most nurseries. Always choose the larger tubers, as they will produce a better quality of flower (more blooms, larger flowers).

If you've never grown these cheerful beauties, you should. They require almost no labor, yet give a lusty return.

Happy gardening . . . ☐

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CATHERINE L. ZINSKY is a garden writer for national magazines.

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## Gleanings . . .

### LEFTOVER PLANTS . . .

AMARYLLIS — The last flower has faded on that holiday amaryllis and you're probably wondering what to do with it. Cut the flower stalk off above the bulb. Continue feeding and watering the plant to keep the leaves growing and storing food in the bulb. In the fall when it begins to get colder the leaves will start to die. Do not feed and gradually reduce watering. Remove the dead leaves by snipping them off above the bulb. Take the bulb out of the pot, clean off the soil,

*continued on page 25*

# SONGBIRDS IN THE GARDEN

by DORCAS UTTER

SONGBIRDS IN THE GARDEN complement the natural beauty of the landscape. There is a definite relationship between our garden plants and the songbirds that visit areas of human habitation. If you are a novice birdwatcher, find out what species of birds are in the general vicinity of your property. Go to your favorite bookstore and get a field guide that pertains to the birds of California or the West. Local organizations, such as the San Diego Audubon Society and the San Diego Natural History Museum, have bird walks that are open to public participation. If you do not have a pair of binoculars, now is the time to make that purchase. Check out the many types available in your price range. Binoculars are a modest investment for the benefits received with clear vision of details at a greater distance.

Attracting birds to feed and nest on your property will increase your pleasure in birdwatching, while providing more birds to feed on "bugs" in your garden. The songbirds that migrate through the San Diego area or nest here, as well as the resident birds, have their favorite foods among the native vegetation. However, many exotic plants that have been introduced into our Mediterranean climate gardens have been accepted by these birds.

An ideal garden habitat for birds should include food, water, shelter areas, and nesting sites.

Take a good look at the beaks of the birds in your area (use your binoculars). The shape of the beak will reveal their food preferences. The thick, sturdy beak reveals a seed eater, such as a house finch. The short, nearly triangular beak with a wide gape, depicts an insect eater, such as the black phoebe that catches insects in flight. A thin pointed beak, such as that of wrens and warblers, is also effective at collecting insects. The hooked beak of flesh-eating birds, such as hawks and owls, is designed for a predatory type of survival.

Several species of songbirds, such as: house finches, white-crowned sparrows, American robins, barn swallows,

lesser goldfinches, black phoebes, mourning doves, scrub jays, and northern mockingbirds, have adapted well to our local areas of human habitation where the area provides a suitable bird habitat. Many birds, such as western meadowlarks and western bluebirds prefer open grasslands; while some, such as northern flickers and various nuthatches, prefer forested areas. The amount of land and the type of habitat you have plus the proximity to a natural area, such as a canyon with native vegetation, an open land, or a wooded area, will affect the species of birds that you will attract to your garden. You can enjoy the benefits of greater diversity in an area where two ecosystems meet. But, do not despair if your home

territory consists of a small city lot. Just remember the essentials of **food, water, and shelter** and you will discover that the metropolitan fliers will spot your habitat. After all, they do have a bird's-eye view.

A combination of trees, shrubs and vines will provide a diversified bird diet. Also, many birds will feed heavily on insects in your yard, especially during the nesting season. So, be aware that the use of pesticides can be very hazardous to all wildlife, including the birds.

Your garden vegetation may likely provide the

necessary shelter and nesting sites. You will need to be responsible however for the availability of ample fresh water for drinking and bathing. A suitable water area should have shallow sloping sides with a rough textured surface, and a maximum depth of one to two inches. And, if you can provide slowly dripping water (preferably in a recycled system) it will be more attractive to birds. You also may provide an area, such as a plant saucer, containing some sand, tiny pebbles, or chicken grit, as birds use these materials for food grinders in their gizzards. If your garden is one of very limited space, you may feel the need of bird feeders as a source of supplemental food to that provided by the vegetation growing in your area. Plan to put seed feeders in an area



This wren, thoroughly confused by the size of the fruit, kept walking around the apple.



where there will be limited problems from sprouting seeds. Place any feeders or bird baths in strategically located places for your observing pleasure. It is unwise to place a feeder with bird seed in an area where you plan to let your favorite annuals or perennials mature so you can harvest seed for future planting. The birds that you attract may harvest your choice seed for you. When you observe a small plant swaying with the weight of a tiny lesser goldfinch feeding on it, you will understand that the birds prefer the natural experience of interacting with nature. It is also very important to have feeders and water supplies in areas that provide the birds with ample viewing and an escape route from predators. You cannot protect them one hundred percent of the time, there will be casualties; but don't set them up. Feeders mounted on metal posts or hanging from wires or the use of metal baffles are all protective devices. If you can provide for an ample natural food supply, you should have limited, if any, need for supplemental feeding. This is pretty much a personal choice.

Reasonably dense trees or shrubs offer shelter and good roosting and nest building sites. Most birds will establish territories around their nesting sites, which they will protect with great tenacity during the nesting season. Some birds, such as house wrens, ash-throated flycatchers, and western bluebirds will use nesting boxes. If you decide to use these, check with a supply house for the proper type.

Don't be discouraged if you do not see immediate results from your efforts to attract more species of songbirds to your garden. The long term success will no doubt pertain to the trial and error of plant selection to your particular area. You should be aware that you and the birds may not always agree on plant selection. The northern mockingbird may prefer your cultivated fruit over the native elderberry that you so graciously provided. Or the house finch may feast on the seeds of your recently planted annuals. It may be advisable to arrange for netting over your "larder" and provide supplemental fruits available for sharing with your feathered visitors. In the long term, their benefits will far outweigh any problems. A bird can devour many times its own weight in arthropods. During the nesting season, many birds that are basically seed eaters will feed insects, etc., to their young.

The following list suggests plant species suitable for attracting songbirds in the San Diego area: *Sambucus mexicana* (elderberry), *Vitis californica* (grape), *Schinus molle* (California pepper tree), *Malosma laurina* (laurel sumac), *Prunus lyonii* (Catalina cherry), *Solanum* spp. (nightshade), and various species of *Ilex* (holly), *Pyracantha* (firethorne), *Viburnum* (laurustinus), *Cotoneaster* (cotoneaster), and *Elaeagnus* (silverberry).

If your garden has an open area suitable to ground feeding, you may wish to try a bird seed mix, chicken scratch feed, and/or sunflower seed. Bird seed on the ground will attract seed eaters such as mourning doves, California towhees, California quail, scrub jays, and California thrashers. Various sparrows, warblers, goldfinches, and flycatchers are attracted to flower beds by the insects in the area. And, if the flowers are not deadheaded, the sparrows, finches, and lesser goldfinches may feed on the seeds.

Your yard, be it large or small, is part of the home range of a variety of creatures, and the sky above it is available to any avian species that chooses to enter your air space. (This article excluded information on hummingbirds and raptors.) Incorporate into your landscape plants that are suitable to your particular ecosystem and also have the potential to attract your favorite songbirds. Broadleaf



A white-crowned sparrow perched on the edge of a bird-bath  
Photographs by Doreas Utter

evergreen trees or shrubs offer good shelter and conifers make good nesting sites. But don't get carried away by overplanting so that your mature plants create a jumble of vegetation that restricts needed open space for the birds. This can also eliminate viewing vistas for the human inhabitants. Even a modest, but suitable, songbird habitat area (food, water, shelter), will encourage additional species to visit your garden and in turn will add to your viewing pleasure. A favorite chair by the kitchen window, or a secluded bench in the garden provides a spot for a brief respite while observing the antics and activities of these feathered friends.□

DORCAS UTTER is an instructional aide in horticulture at Cuyamaca College. She is also the chairman for docent training at Quail Botanical Garden. She is a past president and past education chairman at San Diego Audubon Society. Using sign language she leads walks for the hearing-impaired.



# THE BARE-ROOT SEASON AND ROSES

by Marianne Truby

IN MANY PARTS OF the world rosarians are enjoying this time of the year to sit by the fire and look at rose catalogs and plan for a new year. For those of us who have had bushes growing in our gardens for twenty-plus years it is difficult to think of the high percentage of plants that must be replaced each year because of winter kill. The term "hardiness" (amount of winter cold a plant can withstand) has little interest to us. Here in Southern California we are busy selecting, planting and pruning existing roses. (We prune our floribundas on Christmas Day!)

Lists and catalogs received in November from growers and nurseries will have been studied and searched for the varieties we wish to add to our gardens. The selection of roses will be based on many factors. Fortunately all rose types are available in many colors. Roses may be planted throughout the year from canned stock but the bare-root roses planted now will cost less and outperform all others. It is wise to plan your purchases well in advance. Choosing roses is certainly a personal decision and like most things what pleases me may not appeal to you. However, in determining varieties best suited for your area it is important you do some research. The best way to evaluate roses for your location is to pay attention to what you see growing in or



'Peace' rose

Photo by Marianne Truby



'San Diego' rose

Photo by Marianne Truby

near your own neighborhood. All roses do not do well in all areas. Roses grown in El Cajon and the inland areas will often be of the heavier petaled blooms and the same varieties grown on the coast do well only in the warmer days of summer.

If you wish to create a garden of color you will want to check out some of the new FLORIBUNDAS. These roses provide color throughout most of the year and adapt well to areas where perennials, bulbs, and seasonal flowers have been included. There was a time when it was our practice to keep roses isolated in rose beds for easier maintenance. Fortunately we have learned that rose bushes can complement all flowers and in addition add fragrance and color throughout the year. There are those who believe modern roses have lost their fragrance, but I submit these sceptics have based their views on insufficient evidence. Pick a group of blooms from any garden, put them in an enclosed room (no air-conditioning), and revise your opinion. True, florist roses have been bred for staying power and seldom have fragrance.

If you are planning to become an exhibitor you will be interested in "what is new." HYBRID TEAS predominate in the average rose garden and are the mainstay of the exhibitor. Here in our area the bushes grow large due to our long season and produce the long-

stemmed blooms we all love.

GRANDIFLORAS are not recognized as a rose class outside of the United States, but new ones continue to be introduced. Originally described as tall, upright plants with clusters of flowers in the classic hybrid tea form, many of the newer introductions are lower growing. They can be used as a screen or for background. 'Queen Elizabeth' was the first of these and may be seen throughout this area today. In the older areas of the city the climbing version presents a beautiful display of rich blooms. Many of the newer varieties are lower growing. 'Tournament of Roses' and 'Prima Donna' are popular recent additions. 'Gold Medal', a yellow beauty, is great for cutting and an award winner throughout the area.

Consider CLIMBING ROSES if you have a wall, fence or trellis for support. Roses do not cling as vines do. Certainly one of the most colorful and frequently seen in this area is 'Joseph's Coat,' a blend of red and yellow. 'Altissimo' (actually a pillar) is a single (five petal) with blood-red flowers borne in a cluster. It has deep-green disease resistant foliage. 'Sally Holmes,' a creamy white shrub has been declared a "must-have" by many rosarians in recent publications. Give it lots of room in an area where its breathtaking spring bloom can be enjoyed.

MINIATURE ROSES grow in height from 6 inches to 3 feet. They are wonderful when used as edgings to your gardens or walkways. They are also excellent container plants and are available year-round in small pots. They are extremely hardy and require much the same care as the large roses, i.e. sun, food, and water.

New rose varieties of all types are introduced each year. A few will join the ranks of longtime favorites and others will soon disappear from the market. Fortunately this process has resulted in ever more superior and easy to care for roses. There is a rose for every need and in recent years we have begun to dispel the myth that they must be pampered and given constant care. Purchase free-blooming plants, plant them where they will receive five to six hours of sunshine, good ventilation, regular consistent reasonable care, and you will be rewarded most of the year with cut blooms, color, and fragrance.

Choose your plants wisely and treat them with care. Keep them in water. NEVER LET THEM DRY OUT. Avoid bareroots that have had their canes waxed. Try to make your selections soon after they arrive at your local nursery. Packaged roses vary a great deal in quality, but when planted properly will produce fine plants.

Hybrid teas I consider "must haves": 'Honor' (white), 'Touch of Class' (orange pink), 'Elizabeth Taylor' (deep pink), 'Korlingo' (red), 'Paradise' (mauve), and 'Lanvin' (yellow).□

## ALL AMERICAN ROSE SELECTIONS (AARS)

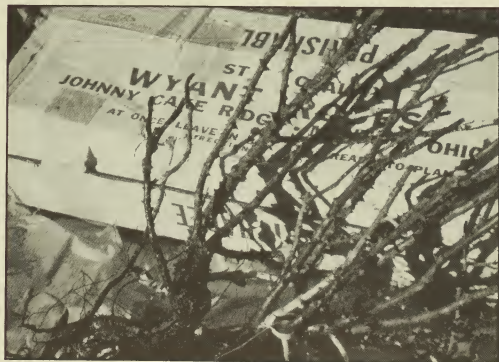
AARS IS A SYSTEM established by rose growers in 1938 to evaluate new introductions. For a period of two years, each new rose is grown in more than twenty-five test gardens across the United States. They are judged in fifteen categories ranging from bud and flower form to fragrance, growth habit, foliage, disease resistance and overall value. Voting occurs in January by secret ballot and the rose considered for the award is the highest scoring rose over a two year period. It is a prize highly coveted by hybridizers. An AARS Rose may not perform as well in Southern California as in other parts of the country, however. It should be noted that during the past thirty years sixteen Queen of the Show winners at the San Diego Rose Society Spring Shows have been AARS introductions. They are:

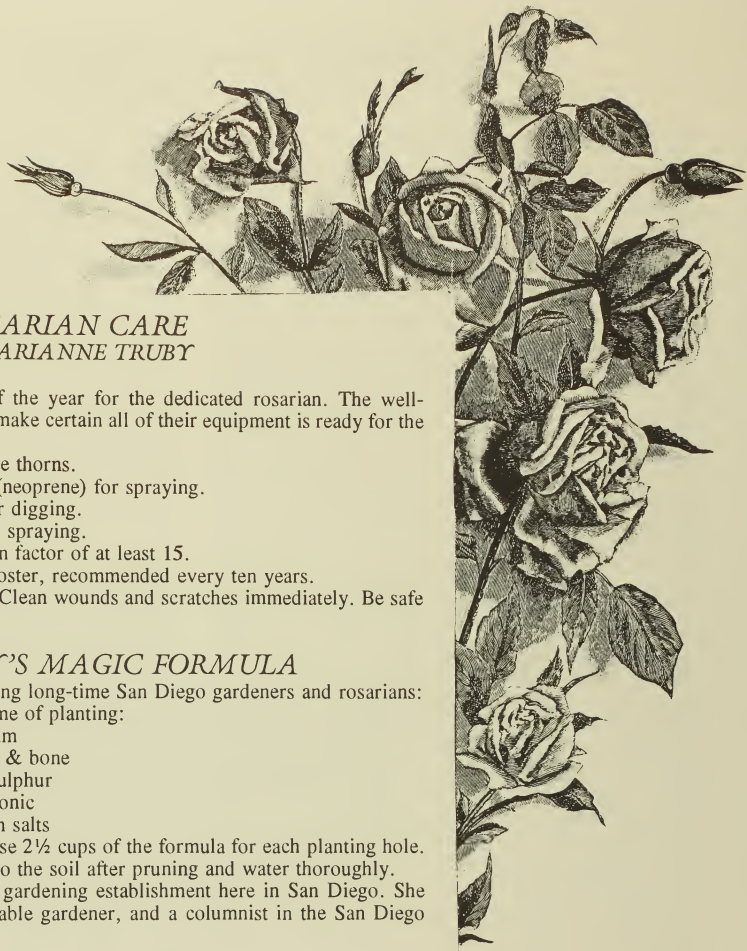
Color Magic, 1983; Double Delight, 1981, 1985; Duet, 1969; Granada, 1965, 1975; Honor, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990; Mister Lincoln, 1970, 1972; Paradise, 1982; Pascali, 1980; Prominent, 1988; Sutter's Gold, 1964.

All of these AARS varieties remain readily available today during the bare-root season. Other AARS winners I would urge you to consider would be 'Touch of Class,' 'Royal Highness,' and newcomers 'Brigadoon' and 'Secret.' 'Peace,' introduced fifty years ago as a symbol of hope for the future, is an AARS winner that does exceptionally well when grown as a climber.□

MARIANNE TRUBY has grown roses for thirty years at her home in Chula Vista.

Bare-root rose photo by Marianne Truby





## ROSARIAN CARE

by MARIANNE TRUBY

THIS IS THE BUSIEST time of the year for the dedicated rosarian. The well-prepared will have taken steps to make certain all of their equipment is ready for the test.

- 1) Good gloves that resist rose thorns.
- 2) Chemical resistant gloves (neoprene) for spraying.
- 3) Good shoes appropriate for digging.
- 4) Goggles and face mask for spraying.
- 5) Sunscreen with a protection factor of at least 15.
- 6) TETANUS SHOT or a booster, recommended every ten years.

Be very cautious with infections. Clean wounds and scratches immediately. Be safe and not sorry.

## ADA PERRY'S MAGIC FORMULA

This will stir fond memories among long-time San Diego gardeners and rosarians:

To be added to soil mix at time of planting:

1 cup	gypsum
1 cup	blood & bone
1/2 cup	soil sulphur
2 tablespoons	iron tonic
1 tablespoon	epsom salts

If you mix a large quantity, use 2½ cups of the formula for each planting hole. For established roses cultivate into the soil after pruning and water thoroughly.

Ada Perry presided over the gardening establishment here in San Diego. She was a friend to all, a knowledgeable gardener, and a columnist in the San Diego Union.

## ROSE BEADS

ROSE BEADS WERE TRADITIONALLY made from a heated mixture of cut up rose petals that were rolled out to the desired shape. They were strung together to form a rosary—"a gathering of roses."

You will need two quarts of rose petals, enough water to cover them in a pot, and a little rose oil. Grind or chop petals finely, place in pot, cover with water, and heat at low temperature for two or three hours (it'll be mushy), then pour some rose oil on your palms and roll the pulp into small beads. Place on paper towel, make holes, (knitting needles will work), dry. Twist them occasionally to prevent sticking. When dry, thread them on a strong thread or wire.

I received a gift of rose beads years ago from a lovely friend who made them from the petals of roses that had been grown in our garden. She used spacers of Job's tears, a pearl gray seed. The beads "warm up" when worn and emit a true rose fragrance.



# HEIRLOOMS - the real legacy of life . . .

by JEAN E. JOHNS

THERE WAS JULIA CHILD outstanding in her field, or, to be more accurate standing in a field of vegetables, grown from heirloom or historical seeds. Her enthusiasm showed as she held eggplants that were white, oval, and looked like an egg with green calyx. No wonder they were called eggplants and the seeds were over one hundred years old. My interest peaked as she displayed yellow pear tomatoes, asparagus beans, snowball cauliflower etc. Well, you get the picture.

Is there such a seed catalog? The first seed catalog in this country was published in 1803 by Bernard McMahon (1775-1816). He was born in Ireland, moved to Philadelphia in 1796, and soon established a seedhouse and nursery business by 1802. The catalog or, as it was called, broadsheet, "A Catalogue Of Garden Grass, Herb, Flower, Tree & Shrubseeds, Flower Roots Etc.," included 720 species and varieties of seed. His other classic work is "The American Gardener's Calendar", published in 1806. By this time he was serving as curator for the plants collected by the Lewis and Clark expedition, which was commissioned by Thomas Jefferson. There were many letter and seed exchanges with Thomas Jefferson, who collected and disseminated seeds of choice that were important to the horticultural life of his Monticello estate. McMahon was honored by botanist Thomas Nuttall, who in 1818 bestowed the genus name *Mahonia* on a group of west-coast evergreen shrubs still popular in the American garden.

Available today through the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, are Monticello's seeds of the past, which include vegetables, flowers and fruit. "Twinleaf", the annual newsletter is available each January. This includes the "Monticello Seed List", an offering of seeds for fifty kinds of historic plants. The mission of the program is to preserve our horticultural heritage by documenting plants used in American gardens before 1900; and by preserving these tangible links to the past through propagation and distribution. These older varieties can enrich modern as well as period gardens, and sometimes have advantages of fragrance, flavor, vigor, disease resistance, or other qualities useful in plant breeding.

Heirloom seeds are available by catalog order from several sources: **The Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, Monticello**, P.O. Box 318, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902. \$1—*Aquilegia canadensis*, native columbine (Cultivated before 1750). *Gomphrena globosa*, globe amaranth (Cult. by 1780). *Phaseolus coccineus*, scarlet runner beans (Cult. by 1750). **Abundant Life Seed Foundation**, P. O. Box 772/1029

Lawrence St., Port Townsend, WA 98368. \$3—*Cucumis sativus*, cucumber. Boston pickling (Cult. 1870). *Cucurbita pepo*, squash, acorn or table queen (Cult. 1835). **Peace Seeds A Planetary Gene-Pool Resource and Service**, P. O. 190, Gila, NM 88038. \$4—*Lactuca sativa*, lettuce, tom thumb-mini, brown golding and deer tongue. *Zea mays*, sweet corn, Hooker Indian, Luther Hill white. *Pisum sativum*, snow peas, golden sweet vine. All of the above are listed as Historical seeds. Other regional sources of Historic Plants are: **Flower Seeds: Heirloom Garden Seeds**, P. O. Box 138, Guerneville, CA 95446 (707/887-1215). \$2.50. **J. L. Hudson, Seedsmen**, P. O. Box 1058, Redwood City, CA 94064. \$1. **Vegetables and Herbs: Bountiful Gardens**, 19550 Walker Rd., Willits, CA 95490. Free. **Redwood City Seed Co.**, P. O. Box 361, Redwood City, CA 94064. \$1. **Hardy and Tender Bulbs: Skittone Bulb Co.** 1415 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco, CA 94132. (415/753-3332). **Fruits and Nuts: Living Tree Center**, P. O. Box 10082, Berkeley, CA 94709. \$4. **Sonoma Antique Apples**, 4395 Westside, Healdsburg, CA 95448. \$1.

A **Park Seed** catalog section by Elizabeth Berry (Santa Fe, New Mexico) is devoted to the preservation and growing of heirloom vegetables. These old varieties have become rare and hard to find. A few devoted gardeners have continued to grow heirloom varieties, passing them down generations for their uniquely excellent flavors and historic interest. Park Seed offers an Heirloom Collection of twelve varieties for under \$14. Some of them are eggplant Rosa Bianca, chili pepper Corno di Toro Rosso, bush bean New Mexico Appaloosa, and squash Ronde de Nice.

There is a biotechnology revolution. Scientists are reported to be working on the gene bank and the cell library. Using tissue culture technology, they take cellular samples of a plant and grow it in a laboratory, chemical-fed and lab-bred.

There is a choice of two types of seed. One is hybrid, multinational seed companies favor hybrids, which are genetic offsprings of two parents crosses. Nonhybrid seeds or heirlooms are perceived to be of better quality in categories of productivity, health and size. Gardeners find they taste better and have more nutrition. They are open-pollinated, they reproduce true-to-type reliably. Food plants from open-pollinated seeds show superior nutrition over modern F1 (first generation) hybrids. Are we interested in yield per acre or nutrition per acre?□

JEAN E. JOHNS, SDFA board member, is an accredited flower show judge.



# THE ARTIST AS GARDENER

by FREDRIK LILJEBLAD

FOR MANY ARTISTS, their main form of self-expression, that for which they're best known, is simply not enough to fulfill their creative drive. Picasso had his ceramics, Toulouse-Lautrec his cooking, and Marcel Vertès his costume design. For Auguste Renoir and his friend, Claude Monet, gardening was the creative recreation of choice.

Monet's garden at Giverny, despite having been celebrated almost *ad nauseam* in articles and several books—not to mention the seed collection recently sold in a palette-shaped holder—is a superlative accomplishment. Located northwest of Paris, roughly halfway to Rouen, Giverny has the "typical" European climate of fairly cold winters, and pleasantly hot summers with adequate-to-generous rainfall. In short, the complete opposite of our San Diego climate.

Renoir's garden, Les Collettes, on the other hand, is located at Cagnes-sur-Mer, nestled only a bit inland from the mythical Mediterranean, with its year-round mild climate and short, mostly frostless, rainy winters followed by dry, hot summers. Sound familiar? And it's no coincidence that only a short distance from Les Collettes lies Grasse—the flower capital of Europe and the heart of the French perfume industry—acres upon acres of mimosa, jasmine, lavender, carnations, and damask roses.

Lovely as they are, many of Giverny's great effects are dependent on plants that either need a lot of cossetting in San Diego's climates, or are simply impossible to grow here: rhododendrons and deciduous azaleas; tulips and herbaceous peonies; some willows, poplars, and flowering cherries. The style, too, is more that of the typical *clois normand*, the French version of the cottage garden—albeit hybridized with the *japonaiserie* dear to the hearts of the Impressionists. Renoir's garden, more eclectic and less easily categorized, reflects its Mediterranean locale, filled as it

is with a number of plants the San Diego gardener knows as old friends: olive, citrus, and palm; oleander, Pride of Madeira (*Echium fastuosum*) and cactus; bougainvillea, canna, and agapanthus.

Les Collettes, today only slightly smaller than its original nine acres, started out as an ancient olive orchard on the hilly terrain rising up from the sea (The name Les Collettes, incidentally, could be translated as "Hillocks."), which Renoir bought in 1907. The Mediterranean is still visible through the encroaching trees, although to a much lesser extent than in Renoir's day, when the family would sit on the terrace of the main house and watch the fishermen returning with their day's catch to the neighboring fishing village of Cros-de-Cagnes. It's said that many of the olive trees were planted by the soldiers of King François I, and they certainly look knotty and gnarled enough for this to be more than myth. The airy, open quality of the olive tree foliage, along with its silvery color, gives an unmistakably Mediterranean quality to Les Collettes.

One of the glories of Southern California gardening is

the juxtaposition of plants from diverse, often climatically opposed, regions of the world. In our gardens, roses and hibiscus grow cheek-by-jowl with cymbidium orchids and delphiniums. This distinctive juxtaposition is something that Renoir also achieved at Les Collettes—although whether or not he perceived the incongruity of a bed of velvety, blue-violet bearded irises encircling the base of a huge, Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) is open to speculation. The Impressionists, of which Renoir was a prime example, were iconoclasts who refused to recognize aesthetic (or, as we have seen, horticultural) limitations. And the subtlety of the color combinations—the unifying bluishness of the iris foliage and the palm fronds, the complementary "clash" of the purple irises with the burnished



Canary Island date palm, *Phoenix canariensis*  
Photo by Betty Newton

orange of the palm blossoms—is as great a tribute to Renoir's artistry as any of his canvases.

Les Collettes' two main structures are the original farmhouse, a long, low, haphazardly plastered structure roofed in the rosy terra-cotta tiles that make the Midi region's architecture so memorable, and the austere and imposing main house, built to Mme. Renoir's more bourgeois requirements. The rough-and-ready farmhouse walls make a lovely foil to several huge *Brugmansia*, whose coarse and blowsy, but nonetheless striking, character hit just the right note. The lush foliage and gaunt branch structure echo the building's character, and the buff/salmony, pink-shaded trumpets repeat the mellow coloring of the roof tiles. As a counterpoint, a bed of purplish-blue agapanthus grows with characteristically ruthless vigor along a side wall.

Just as the main house in its austere beauty reflects Mme. Renoir's preferences, so do the surrounding gardens. Aline Renoir also made her mark on Les Collettes, and the gardens are none the worse for it. It was she who laid out the rather formal gardens filled with orange and tangerine trees and masses of roses, both of which thrived in the gentle climate. The basic color scheme of the roses was red and pink, but Madame relented enough to also plant a yellow-flowered Lady Banks' rose (*Rosa banksiae* 'Lutea'). Although Renoir's tastes ran more to informality, he did place his famous statue of *Venus Victrix* as the focal point of the formal border, where it remained during his lifetime.

Renoir's garden was nothing if not eclectic. On one of the slopes leading from the main house to the lower gardens, Renoir planted a collection of cacti and succulents that thrived in the dry heat of the Mediterranean summers. The collection included such "exotic" items (to nineteenth century French at least) as variegated agave (*Agave americana* 'Variegata'), assorted yuccas, and *Beschorneria yuccoides*, a striking succulent with tall, fleshy, coral-red flower stalks and deep chartreuse flowers.

As is so often the case with a human life, more so perhaps with the famous—or does it just seem so?—Renoir's last years were chronicles of pain, grief, and loneliness, partly assuaged by his unceasing creativity—in soil, on canvas, and in bronze. Renoir himself, his sons, Pierre—a distinguished character actor, Jean—the legendary film director of *The Rules of the Game* (*Les Règles du Jeu*), and Claude—a gifted ceramist, are all gone. But Les Collettes, one of Renoir's

"masterpieces," lives on, beautiful and immortal. □

FREDRIK LILJEBLAD has been a professional writer for over twenty years. He is the author of numerous textbooks on language learning and cookery, as well as a producer of educational videos. He has gardened in climates as diverse as Sweden, England, Thailand, and Japan.

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*Brugmansia*

Photo by Marianne Truby



Lady Banks' rose

Photo by Marianne Truby

# WILD FERNS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY (Part 1)

Compiled by BETTY NEWTON

HELEN WITHAM, in her *Ferns of San Diego County*, says San Diego County has twenty-six kinds of native ferns. We look here at the most common or frequently seen ferns, as indicated in *A Flora of San Diego County, California* by R. Mitchel Beauchamp.

This spring you may be browsing some path just outside a developed area and be pleasantly surprised by delicate green from beneath a large boulder—your first look at our native goldenback fern. Here is what Witham has to say:

## Goldenback Fern

### *Pityrogramma triangularis*

The goldenback has tough, hard, leathery leaves. This is a fern of sunbaked hills. It is distinguished by the pale to bright yellow waxy powder on the back of the leaves.

We have Goldenback itself, and two varieties, all about the same in size and habit of growth. We find them colorful, endearing, and surprising—colorful because of the gold or silver waxy powder on the back of the leaves and surprising because they frequently appear in what we commonly think of as unlikely habitat for ferns—dry hills and mesas with the scantiest of shrub cover.

These ferns are small, mostly 4 to 10 inches high, with several leaves and old stalks in a crowded cluster. The stalk is about twice as long as the blade shining, dark, and smooth except for a few scales at the base. These dark, slender stalks were used in basket-making by early Indians of northern California.

The blades of *Pityrogramma* are roughly triangular or five-sided, green above and gold or white beneath, whence the common names of Goldenback and Silverback. On older leaves maturing sporangia expand until they obscure most of the back. During the dry season, the leaves curl into little fists, with the bright side out. This is believed to be a protection against heat, like aluminum paint on a roof.

Habitat: Rocky places, in light shade. To 5000 feet.

Range: Common, coast to lower mountains; occasional on desert slopes of Laguna Mountains, as at Banner Grade and Shaw Canyon [Beauchamp: Tecate Junction]. Most of cismontane California, and to British Columbia and northern Baja California.

## VOCABULARY:

*cismontane* — literally, "this side of the mountains," but only when you are standing west of the mountains, hence — west of the mountain crest.

*indusium* — thin membrane covering a *sorus*

*rhizome* — jointed underground stem, from which roots and leaves grow

*scale* — dry projection, usually thin and papery in ferns; may be on rhizome, stalk, or back of leaf

*sorus* — (plural *sori*) the cluster of spore sacs; in most ferns, on the underside of a leaf

*sporangium* — (plural, *sporangia*) a spore case or sac

*spore* — reproductive cell



(continued on next page)

Goldenback, leaf is thin and green with yellowish dots



## Bracken

### *Pteridium aquilinum* variety *pubescens*

We call it Bracken here; they call it Brake in England. It is *Pteridium*, from the old Greek word for fern, *aquilinum* from the Latin, *aquila*, eagle—because its cut stalks show the outline of an eagle; at least to someone in ancient times they showed such an outline. The variety native to San Diego is *pubescens*, the “somewhat downy” one.

Down the centuries, Bracken has had many uses and supposed uses as hay, food, bedding, magic, and . . . as an ingredient of fine glassware . . . California Indians have long used both roots and stalks in weaving baskets.

To the naked eye, the fertile underside of a Bracken leaf appears merely dusty or rusty. . . . How will you recognize Bracken? By its size, by the distinctive shape of its much-divided leaves, and by its abundance in places not permanently wet. In autumn, its gold or russet leaves add a bright glow to many thousands of acres in our higher mountains. The leaves gradually dry and fade, forming a soft brown covering over the forest floor, or in openings of the woods. With spring's warm days, silver-hairy buds appear on the black rhizomes, developing into crisp green shoots which grow and grow, to 6 or 7 feet. If you find yourself up to your waist, or up to your neck in ferns, you are probably in a field of Bracken.

Habitat: Pastures, fields, open woods, forest floor. [Beauchamp: above 600 feet] Up to 10,000 feet.

Range: Foothills and mountains; Dehesa and Ramona eastward to Palomar, Julian, Laguna; desert slopes of Lagunas, as Banner Grade and Shaw Canyon. Throughout the state; also to Alaska, South Dakota, Texas, and Baja California. Most widely distributed of all ferns, circling the globe, in tropical and temperate regions, from damp lowlands to forest floors at 10,000 feet.

A Cliff-Brake fern, the bird's-foot is frequently seen.

### Bird's-Foot or Tea Fern

#### *Pellaea mucronata*

[Is] . . . likely to be found in [dry] places, on hilltops or mesas, or on the desert side of the mountains. The foliage is crowded into tufts 6 to 20 inches tall. Leaves are finely-divided, stiff, and erect. Each leaf blade is a tall, narrow triangle of gray-green leaflets on a black or purple stalk. The leaflets are rolled under to the center, completely covering the sporangia. The midvein of each leaflet ends in a sharp hard little point—a mucro, botanically speaking; hence



young Bracken leaf, typically, bare part of stalk is two or three times as long as blade



Bird's-foot Fern sporangia concealed by inrolled edges of segments



Bird's-Foot Fern,  
a stiff tangle of firm leaves and dried stalks



*Pellaea mucronata*. . . . No question about the reason for the . . . common name, Bird's-Foot Fern; many of the leaflets are in threes with the longest in the center—tiny birds'-feet, with toenails?

Habitat: Cliffs and dry rocky places, below 6000 feet.

Range: Throughout California and into Baja California, sparingly on desert. [specifically: Borrego's Palm Canyon]. □

(to be continued)

BETTY NEWTON teaches gardening classes for Grossmont Adult School and writes for the Sunday *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

HELEN WITHAM (who reverted to the surname Chamlee sometime after this book's publication) wrote several articles for *California Garden* in the '60's and '70's. She worked in the Education and Botany Departments at the San Diego Natural History Museum. She was the founder of the Canyoneer project there and responsible for preserving the Florida Canyon open space.

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(This book can be bought at the Natural History Museum gift shop for \$2.00)

An inveterate garden visitor, Betty Newton will take a group to Landscapes Southern California Style, a beautiful drought-resistant garden in Riverside. The group will also visit the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, which features native plants, Huntington Botanic Garden and Hortus (a nursery), April 10-11. Call Misha Tours, 588-4644, for more information.



*Achimenes*

## ACHIMENES

by ROBERT D. HORWITZ

MY FIRST EXPOSURE to the *Achimenes* was when I was given a few tubers by a cousin who was repotting a set of them. He gave me a few of the bulbs, which looked a little like pink grubs with a rough skin. But like Cinderella, the nature fairy caused them to grow into attractive plants much like African violets. In fact, African violets and gloxinias belong to the same family as achimenes do, the Gesneriaceae. These small tubers are about an inch long and a little less than a quarter of an inch around. They are quite delicate, in that they will break easily. However, that is not all bad because each piece, when planted, will grow into a mature plant. After a year in its growing medium, that small hunk of tuber will have generated a few more tubers much like potatoes do.

After getting a set of leaves the tuber will produce flowers. Depending on the type, these flowers will be single or double and have colors ranging from white to a lavender-purple. These flowers will appear in late spring and continue until it gets cold outside. If you grow achimenes in the house, the flowers may bloom much longer. After a short dormant period the growth cycle starts again.

Care of the plant is similar to the African violet, although the achimenes will not suffer as much from overwatering and leaf rot as does the African violet. Grow achimenes in mostly shade outdoors, and, if grown indoors, near a bright, non-sunny window. During the warm months they make ideal pot or hanging basket plants for a balcony garden. Just locate them on the balcony so that they get a minimum of sunlight and wind.

Planting soil should be made up of loam, fine sand, and leaf mold in equal parts. The soil should be slightly acid. Use an acid-type liquid fertilizer after the tubers show signs of growth. When the growing season is over, you can remove the tubers from the soil and store them until spring. Replant them in fresh soil and separate the new tubers to increase the number of plants.

Achimenes make wonderful hanging basket plants. Plant six or seven of the tubers in a basket, equally spaced. The flowers will practically cover the container when they are in full bloom. You could choose plants of different colors for the same container as a striking accent piece. The planting of the tubers should be in January or early February to attain flowers in April. The soil should be kept damp, so watch your watering. Try to avoid getting the flowers and leaves wet to avoid rot. ♣

ROBERT HORWITZ is a Point Loma gardener and garden writer. He grows the plants he describes.



## Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

### AFRICAN VIOLETS

Mort Brigadier

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO SIMPLY** sit back and enjoy our African violets.

**TO SEPARATE** and repot only if daughter plants are pushing the mother plant up and out of the pot.

**TO RETURN** those plants that you may have moved during the holidays.

**TO EXPERIMENT** by wick-watering some plants, bottom-watering others, and top-watering a third group.

**TO USE** a humidifier for your plants if you heat your home and awaken with a dry throat.

### BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATCH** the watering program; slower growth requires less water. Do not allow to dry out or to become too wet.

**TO KEEP** plants clean; remove dead leaves and old foliage.

**TO START** cutting back cane-type and shrublike types.

**TO ADD** more planter mix as needed to keep roots covered.

**TO SPRAY** for mildew.

**TO CONTROL** slugs, snails, mealybugs and loopers.

**TO START** in February tuberous types for summer blooms.

### BONSAI

Dr. Herbert Markowitz

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO COLLECT** native stock in the California region. Plant the native trees in a larger container, not a bonsai pot.

**TO GRAFT** conifers, deciduous and evergreen trees.

**TO USE** lime-sulphur spray on deciduous trees.

**TO REDUCE** watering if a rainy period.

**TO PRUNE** fruit-bearing bonsai.

**TO WATCH** for aphids and other sucking insects; spray accordingly.

**TO REMEMBER NOT** to fertilize your trees. Allow plants to rest.

**TO START** in February to repot and transplant some varieties if weather is favorable.

### BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO KEEP** plants from damage by possible hail. Give them overhead protection such as placing them under trees, shade cloth or any other suitable material.

**TO PROTECT** plants from freezing temperatures; keep at least 2 inches above ground and cover with newspapers, sheets, etc. or bring them indoors.

**TO BE** careful when having plants indoors not to place them in front of a heating vent or in a drafty area.

**TO EMPTY** water from outdoor plants when it has rained consistently for two or three days. The weight of too much water can cause the leaves to spread apart, affecting the compact form.

**TO CUT** the frequency of watering during the cooler weather.

**TO NOT** fertilize until weather begins to warm.

### CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO REMEMBER** to rest winter dormant plants and keep the winter growers happy. Be careful with water and fertilizer as it gets cold—water in the early part of a sunny day so water will evaporate and fungi will not start easily. If it looks like rain, hold off on the water.

**TO PROTECT** outside plants from excessive rain if possible. If frost is likely, a little protection with a piece of paper or plastic can save a plant. Many tropical succulents will turn into a mass of soggy pulp if frozen. Remember to remove cover when conditions become more favorable.

**TO WATCH** new cuttings—they may not root quickly. If you can supply bottom heat you should not have much of a problem.

**TO KEEP** an eye on the seedlings. Fungi can be a problem at this time. Snails can make a great midnight snack of the seedlings—use some form of snail and slug control if needed.

**TO CLEAN** up old pots and pick up the last of the old leaves and other debris. You do not want to encourage mice and roof rats. Rodents can make a mess of your prize plants.

**TO NOTE** those plants you want to propagate the next growing season. Find out how to make new starts. Plan your spring display now.

## CAMELLIAS

E. C. (Gene) Snooks

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO MAINTAIN** a regular watering schedule to supplement periods between rains. Plants must be kept moist but not wet.

**TO CHOOSE** and plant camellias while they are in bloom.

**TO KEEP** plants clean and pick up all blooms to prevent petal blight.

**TO FEED** with 2-10-10 fertilizer to get better and larger blooms.

**TO MAKE** grafts.

**TO TREAT** a few buds with gibberellic acid for larger flowers.

**TO TRANSPLANT** camellias; do not fertilize newly transplanted plants.

## DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO DIG** any tubers left in the ground. By early January the tops should be completely withered. Cut tops just above the ground.

**TO STORE** tubers without dividing. Store in vermiculite or sand, leaving on the soil that clings to them. Keep in a cool place.

**TO INSPECT** those tubers stored earlier for any sign of shriveling. If too dry, add a little moisture.

**TO START** in February to prepare the planting bed. Turn the soil, add humus and fumigate. Dig in humus and add equal parts of superphosphate and sulfate of potash. Turn over well. Add fertilizer two or three weeks before planting.

**TO SPROUT** some selected roots in February—these make good cuttings. Bottom heat may be applied to encourage sprouting.

## EPIPHYLLUMS

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO TAKE** advantage of beneficial rains. Collect the rainwater for future use. Store in opaque containers to prevent infestation of mosquito larvae and buildup of algae.

**TO PROTECT** plants from unexpected frost and strong wintery winds.

**TO BAIT** for snails and slugs.

**TO SPRAY** insecticides only if necessary. Do not use oilbase types. Use Orthene™, malathion, and Cygon™ available locally. Read and follow directions carefully.

**TO PRUNE** out dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches.

**TO FEED** mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring. Use liquid or slow-release granules. Another application may be necessary in about thirty days.

## FERNS

Ray Sodomka

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO SPRAY** for aphids, especially maidenhair.

**TO WATER** gently, but do not soak. On cool nights soaking keeps their feet too cold. Do not rely on rain to find your hidden and covered plants—they may remain dry.

**TO TRIM** off old fronds in frost free areas.

**TO FERTILIZE** *Platyceriums* (stag horns) with bone meal, hoof & horn, or high nitrogen liquid.

**TO REMOVE** and remount *Platycerium* pups.

**TO PLANT** spores.

**TO CHECK** for spider mites on the underside of fronds. Mites are very small and may not be seen. Fronds will be silvery on top and start to turn brown. Spray with malathion or miticide.

**TO REPOT**, rebasket and divide ferns in frost free areas.

## FUCHSIAS

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PRUNE** fuchsias severely if not done in the fall.

**TO CLEAN** up all leaves and other trash in baskets, pots and around ground plants.

**TO SPRAY** remaining foliage and ground to eradicate pests that may winter over.

**TO KEEP** plants moist but not wet.

**TO FEED** with a good fertilizer—fish (10-5-5) or a slow release type. These can be used for your year-round feeding.

**TO USE** insecticides or fungicides if there is a problem.

## GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)

Carol Roller

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATER** thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

**TO CONTINUE** feeding with a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water. Use less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as needed to keep plants growing well.

**TO CONTINUE** a pest control and disease prevention program, using all products according to the manufacturer's direction.

**TO PRUNE** any plants that have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on stems of regals, scented and similar types. Lanky plants that were pruned earlier can be cut back again to produce more compact plants. Tip pinch other plants that were pruned in the fall.

**TO MAKE** cuttings from the pruning. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.

**TO PROTECT** plants from freezing temperatures. Temporary coverings may be used. Containerized



plants may be moved to a sheltered location.

**TO ROTATE** plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well-shaped.

## IRIS

### San Diego-Imperial County Iris Society

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO KEEP** old brown fans off the tall bearded. Good ground cleaning and spraying is helpful in pest control.

**TO MAKE** last plantings of bulbous irises for spring bloom.

**TO WATCH** watering, if rains are light. Rhizomes should not be allowed to dry out.

**TO START** a regular spraying program with copper oil to help control rust.

**TO START** in February to feed all irises with 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer. Follow directions carefully and do not over fertilize.

## ORCHIDS

### Charles Fouquette

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO CHECK** the moisture in pots of outdoor growing orchids including cymbidiums under cover. Protect them from cold rains and possible hail damage.

**TO CONTINUE** staking and grooming cymbidium flower spikes.

**TO USE** low-nitrogen fertilizer on cymbidiums. Do not feed if overcast.

**TO KEEP** noble-type dendrobiums on the dry side. Watch for swelling of nodes for flower production, then move them to where it is warmer.

**TO REMEMBER** phals should be spiking and if moving the plant, to place it in the same general direction and area so that the flowers will bloom in a uniform manner.

**TO WATER** early in the morning so crowns will be dry by nightfall.

**TO WATCH** closely for slugs and snails. These pests are coming out of hibernation and proliferating after the rains. Granules of 7.5% metaldehyde are an excellent bait and do not attract children or pets and do not leave a mess.

**TO BE AWARE** in outlying areas of any sudden temperature drops.

## ROSES

### Marianne Truby

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO MAINTAIN** a complete calendar of procedures you follow in preparing/maintaining/feeding your roses. The work you do now is the basis of your success or failure in the rose garden.

**TO STRIP** any foliage remaining on your bushes and rake and clean up the beds. If you have given your bushes dormant spray in late December you will be

wise to repeat it, weather permitting. This will do a lot to prevent overwintering spores of mildew and fungus.

**TO PLANT** new bushes in holes you prepared earlier, and watch closely to see that they stay green and do not dehydrate. If the weather is hot and dry, mound soil or mulch up the canes and keep damp with frequent sprinkling.

**TO PRUNE** established hybrid teas, mid-January through Valentines Day. Attend the demonstrations on pruning in Balboa Park Rose Garden.

**TO FEED** new plants with liquid fertilizer when bushes have a full set of leaves. These new bushes may be the first to bloom and after verifying you have the correct plant, break off the bloom leaving the new growth intact.

**TO APPLY** rose food to established bushes in early February. A cup of alfalfa meal or pellets worked into the drip basin will work well on established roses.

**TO MAINTAIN** moisture level at all times.

**TO WATCH** for the first signs of aphids on the new growth and knock them off with a strong stream of water from the hose. They are lazy and will take a few days to climb back up.

**TO SPRAY** a fungicide weekly to prevent mildew.

**TO FINGER PRUNE** when multiple buds break on the canes, leaving only the strongest to promote strong growth.

## NATIVES

### Jeanine De Hart

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO LOOK** for swelling on and near the flower buds of *Ceanothus*. This indicates the presence of the ceanothus stem gall moth larvae (*Periploca ceanothiella*). This pest can cause considerable damage. The only way I've found for control is to use a systemic or hand pick all the swollen buds.

**TO DO** your "spring cleaning" and keep the area around your plants free of decaying plant material that might lead to disease.

**TO LOOK** at native plant gardens and nurseries in order to get an idea what plants you might like in the fall. Fall is right for planting them, but late winter and early spring is the time to see them in bloom.

**TO VISIT** Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in order to see all the natives in one place. Their spring bloom is spectacular.

**TO PRUNE** dead wood off shrubs if you haven't done so already. It needs to be done before spring growth starts. For *Ceanothus*, it will be too late.

## FRUIT TREES AND VINES

### Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension NOW IS THE TIME

**TO FINISH** pruning dormant deciduous trees and vines before leaf buds start to grow.

**TO PRUNE** evergreens just before or when new



growth begins.

**TO SPRAY** dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil before buds begin to open to control overwintering insect pests.

**TO SPRAY** dormant peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) before buds begin to open to control leaf curl.

**TO PLANT** dormant bare-root trees and vines.

**TO PAINT** the trunks with whitewash to protect the bark from sunburn injury.

**TO PROVIDE** frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.

## VEGETABLES

**Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension  
NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO CONTINUE** planting cool-season vegetables that are not likely to be damaged by frost. Cool-season vegetables include broccoli, brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes (white), radish, rutabaga and turnip.

**TO USE** floating row cover fabric on seeded and transplanted crops to accelerated their growth.

**TO PLANT** dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus and rhubarb.

**TO PLANT** seeds of medium day-length onions such as 'White Sweet Spanish,' 'Stockton Yellow Globe' and 'Italian Red' (short storage life) during February for bulbs in late summer.

**TO ORDER** seeds of warm season vegetables for planting in the spring.

## VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

**from UC Cooperative Extension Publications  
NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS**

**TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF:** broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower — Chinese forget-me-not (*Cynoglossum amabile*) cineraria, fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), garden stock (*Matthiola incana*), pansy, pink sand verbenia, pot marigold (*Calendula*), snapdragon, and viola.

**TO PUT IN SEEDS OF:** beet, carrot, chard, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion (green and dry), parsnip, spinach, and turnip — coleus, hollyhock, lobelia, petunia, and sweet alyssum.



## START A SCHOOL GARDEN

by MORT BRIGADIER

A FEW QUARTS OF potting soil, some used pots, a package or two of seeds, a few onion sets, a pony-pack, one or two hours of your time, your willingness to share your joy of plants, and you have the makings of a school garden. If you are willing to teach the science of horticulture to children, simply visit the school nearest you and tell the principal that you would like to "help out."

My first "school garden" consisted of one- and five-gallon containers filled with soil. The children learned about seeds, soils, air, and water. They took delight in seeing, smelling, and feeling the soil as they mixed it and (for some) planted their first seeds. They proudly learned to water the soil and not the leaves and practiced a myriad of other organic gardening techniques.

Observing the children working with plants, seeing their little faces light up with each new discovery, is quite an experience. A dicot seed first breaking ground with its "shoulder" becomes a thing of wonder. A first flower is a sheer delight. Every insect needs to be touched, held, and examined. The garden becomes a living science laboratory.

Parents tell me that the children become critical at home on the use of pesticides, the environment, ecology, pollution, wasting water, etc. This is good. We reach the parents through the children.

My first school harvest was very successful. We grew leaf lettuce in one-gallon pots, and surrounded the lettuce with an assortment of onion sets, radishes, mustard greens, and parsley. We grew patio and cherry tomatoes in five-gallon pots, and surrounded them with flowers. They picked and ate everything they grew, right in the garden, scallions and all, semi-rinsed and raw. Those undersized cherry tomatoes tasted heavenly.

The container garden gradually expanded. It evolved into a sophisticated raised bed, square-foot garden, but the basic gardening techniques, the science of horticulture, and the appreciation for "growing things nature's way" were taught in those five- and one-gallon pots.

If you think that you might like to share your knowledge and work with children, you will be amazed at the children's capacity and willingness to learn, and how happy the teachers will be to have you. There is a recognized need for science training in our schools. Try it. You'll love it. I guarantee that it will become your best ever gardening experience! □

COL MORT BRIGADIER is a retired army paratrooper. He has an MBA in management and is a UCCE Master Gardener. He teaches horticulture science at Highlands Elementary on Tuesdays and Murdock Elementary on Wednesdays in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District.



# Book Reviews

## COLORFUL GARDENS: Contrast & Combine Your Plants & Flowers for Spectacular Visual Effects

Modeste Herwig

New York, Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 1994, 160 pages, 158 color photos, 8 1/4" x 11 1/4", hardcover, \$24.95

Seldom will you find a book that contains great information presented in such a delightful format. It will entice the painter, arranger, gardener and landscape artist. It elaborates on much that has been written about the effects of color on our moods.

The volume is beautifully illustrated with amazing color photos used to present the ideas of the author. Her introduction is well organized and filled with new and established facts. A history of ornamental gardens, information on the various aspects of color and nine chapters devoted to each principal color result in a volume that will be remembered each time you open your eyes to the world outside.

The photos of plant materials are named and charts of plant materials divided into color tables give botanical names, common names, bloom periods and interesting notes about their needs.

*Reviewed by Marianne Truby*

## THE CALIFORNIA GARDEN and the Landscape Architects Who Shaped It

Jere Stuart French

Washington, D.C., Landscape Architecture Foundation, 1993, 250 pages, color photos, 8 1/4" x 10 1/2", hardcover, \$45.00

This is a history of gardens in California from the Spanish settlements to current trends. The promotional literature touts it as "the first truly comprehensive account of garden design in The Golden State." I'm afraid that I must disagree with the "truly comprehensive" portion of this sweeping statement, but I do feel that this book is very worthwhile. The author carefully describes the climatic conditions, cultural trends, and social institutions influencing the gardens in California. He describes and notes the earliest California gardens citing contemporary writers of the times. The beginning portions of the book,

while informative, seem to lack the zest and momentum that picks up speed as the author moves toward the present. Profiles of individual landscape architects and their work sing out and help us to understand the underpinnings of current landscape design.

The garden heritage in California is very different from that of the Eastern seaboard. The extreme variation in climate within the state has affected the plant materials used in major cities. The cultural roots were Spanish, not English and French. The arid climate echoed the Mediterranean region. Presence of great wealth played an important role in the size and scope of garden design and the ability to create fantastic settings within the estates in those communities.

Even more than a history, the book describes the social trends and philosophical perceptions influencing the culture of each period, giving us a better understanding of those elements which contributed to true design and what was only trend. In his role as educator, Mr. French has opened our eyes to what we are seeing when we look at California gardens, both personal and public.

*Reviewed by Lucy Warren*

## AN ARTIST IN THE GARDEN

Enid Munroe

New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1994, 262 pages, 35 line drawings, 6 1/2" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$25.00

Here is yet another book on gardening which dispenses not only information and advice but also includes the author's personal approach and philosophy. Enid Munroe says that she has been gardening in the Northwest for the past ten years. Out of her enthusiasm has come some teaching, and out of that experience has come this book. Since she is a professional artist the text is decorated with her illustrations; there is one for each of the book's thirty-five sections.

Though there are some lists of plants, this self-named guide presents information in narrative form, and here the author's personality is much in evidence. Her views and opinions are forthright, and some of them are challenging; she writes with wit and sensitivity, and readers who are passionate about gardening will empathize with her. Much of this information is readily available elsewhere, but the author gives an excellent list of recommended reading which is truly comprehensive; there is also a section titled "Books" which surveys and reviews garden literature. Also of interest are "Tools and Other Paraphernalia," page 37 and "Children and Gardens" on page 211. Recommended as background reading for students and professionals, and as vicarious experience for armchair gardeners.

*Reviewed by Elsie M. Topham*

## GASTERIAS OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ernst J. van Jaarsveld

Fernwood Press, Dist. by Timber Press, Portland, 1994, 100 pages, 24 color plates, 41 color photos, 10 b&w illustrations, 9 1/4" x 12", hardcover, \$39.95

Along with *Aloe* and *Haworthia*, *Gasteria* are members of the family Asphodelaceae, which was split a few years ago from the very large lily family. *Gasteria* comprise a far smaller group than the *Aloe*, and are confined to the coastal regions of South Africa. The genus *Gasteria* has been popular among collectors of succulents for many years, but its taxonomy has been utterly confused, with many hybrids masquerading as true species. Now Ernst van Jaarsveld has published a masterly reworking of the entire group, which he reduces to just sixteen species and a few varieties; his book gives details of every aspect of its subject and should be the last word for some time to come.

*Gasteria* are characterized by the swollen bases to their flowers, the "stomach" or *gaster* from which the generic name is taken. Unlike *Aloe*, they may be propagated from leaves. And, in great contrast to the aloes, it should be possible for an avid collector to own one of each species and variety in the group! These plants are very well suited to our climate and generally dry conditions, and this book should give any collector a good idea which species to look for in nurseries.

The book is profusely illustrated with color photos and very fine paintings of each species. The author covers all aspects of *Gasteria* culture and propagation as well as a history of their discovery and nomenclature (many were originally placed in the genus *Aloe*.) The result is a truly beautiful book that every grower of *Gasteria* should enjoy.

Reviewed by Phyllis Flechsig

## RARE PLANTS OF THE WORLD

L. S. Belousova and L. V. Denisova

Rotterdam, A. A. Balkema Publishers, 1992, 352 pages, 6" x 9 1/4", 8 color plates, 56 b&w plates, hardcover, \$85.00

This is an interesting compilation of plants. From the title one would believe that it is a list of rarely seen plants. But, in fact, it is more a list of the endangered plants of the world grouped by the areas of the world from which they come. Names are given according to the Latin translation, i.e., *Greyia sutherlandii* becomes Sutherland greya and no common names are given.

An excellent aspect of the plant descriptions is the inclusion of the soil type and habitat where many of the plants are endemic.

Be careful because there are some errors which may be attributable to the fact that this is a translation from the original Russian. For example, listing a *Euphorbia* as 30m tall (90 ft.) when it is in fact a 2 1/2 ft shrub.

There are some drawings of plants which are both rare

and endangered such as the Coco de Mer of the Seychelles that are seldom seen in publication.

Reviewed by Don Miller

## SPECIALTY CUT FLOWERS

Allan M Armitage

Portland, Timber Press, 1993, 392 pages, 99 color photos, 55 line drawings, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$39.95

This book is written for the commercial flower grower. It is divided into four sections that provide in-depth information on selected annual, perennial, bulbous and woody species. Each section considers the basics of propagation, growing-on methods, pests, and diseases. Environmental factors such as: photoperiod influencing growth and flower development, humidity, temperature, field or greenhouse requirements, and the use of gibberellic acid for altering the flower shape are included. All plants are compared by field and greenhouse performance: spacing in planting, harvesting, stem quality, support, yield, and the value or need for forcing earlier blooms for some cultivars. Descriptions of the flowers are given for optimum harvest, the length of time fresh flowers persist, storage requirements, and possibility of drying the product.

The book has tremendous reference value for the "backyard gardener." Although the in-depth discussion is on selected varieties, a list of additional species suitable for cut flowers is included. Each plant entry provides the botanical and common name, cultivars, height and spread, flower color, country or region of origin, family, and hardiness adaptation. Detailed line drawings and color photos complement the text.

Reviewed by Velma West

## ORGANIC GARDENER'S COMPOSTING

Steve Solomon

Portland, Van Patten Publishing, 1993, 144 pages, b&w illustrations, 8 1/2" x 11", softcover, \$9.95

This "how-to" book divides composting into two main categories. One describes elementary backyard composting by various systems, and lists the organic materials used. It describes in simple terminology, particle size of the materials used, and the balance of carbon and nitrogen ratio with the oxygen supply and moisture needed. The second category is somewhat more technical and discusses composting as related to soil fertility and management, and the growing of healthier more nutritious food versus chemically dependent gardening. The book is well organized and has many helpful line drawings and graphs. In a brief introduction to readers, the author expresses a desire to encourage more homeowners to become interested in growing some of their food and to stop sending yard wastes to landfills.

Reviewed by Dorcas Uter



# CARVING VEGETABLES

by BARBARA S. JONES

LOOKING FOR AN OUTLET for your creative talents? Have you tried carving vegetables? It's fun. A carved vegetable centerpiece can be an immediate conversation starter. Even a simple tomato or radish *flower* will dress-up a food. The failures and trimmings make good soup, too.

To start this creative project you will need a sharp paring knife. There are garnishing kits with several tools that are commercially available, but most of the chefs I have observed use a knife. Usually they have two — one about 6 inches, another about 7 inches.

The simplest garnish you can make is a tomato with the top cut off, the center removed, and "V-" shaped wedges cut from the remaining shell. The wedges should be cut about three-fourths of the way down. A small round of carrot can be pressed into the bottom to make an attractive flower. This can be used to top a buffet salad. The other vegetable flower shown in the picture is made of a thin peel that was continuously cut from a red tomato. (Note the parsley leaves.)

Another easy flower is a chrysanthemum made from an onion. Use a medium size red, yellow, or white onion. Try not to

use one with a double growth inside. Remove the outer skin except at the root. Cut half-way through down toward the root. Stop about one-half inch from the root. Continue

making cuts all around the onion at one-quarter inch intervals for regular mums, one-eighth inch for spider mums. Immerse in hot water for five minutes to remove the odor and to start the petals forming. Then soak for several hours or overnight in cold water.

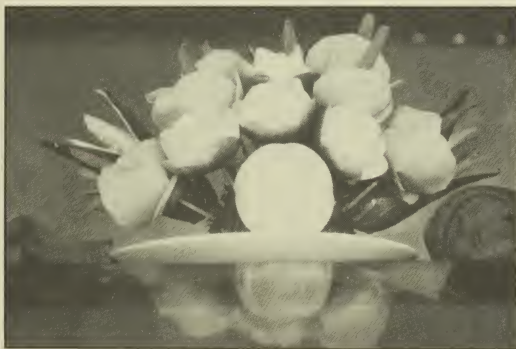
The addition of some parsley for foliage will really enhance either of the above creations.

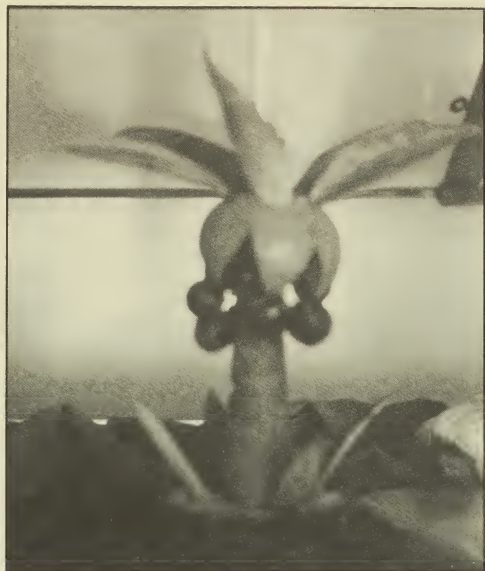
Radishes are probably the easiest vegetable to carve. The brightly colored outer skin contrasting with the white inside makes an instant visual impact. A radish can be used for your first venture into rose carving.

(1) Cut off the root of a large red radish and the stem, leaving a short green stem. (Not really needed, but it looks nice.)

(2) Barely cut through the skin at the lower part (holding the knife pointing down and in) and make petal shapes all the way around. This should be about one-fourth of the way up. Remove the skin the rest of the way up.

(3) Another one-quarter up





shallowly cut in another set of petals around the radish. Try to place the lowest part above the center of the petal below.

(4) If it is big enough a third row of petals can be cut. Again, place the lowest part above the center of the petal below.

(5) Now cut out pieces in the top to make it simulate the tight center of a rose.

You will be surprised how quickly you will learn to do this and how fast and easy it is.

Now you are ready to try a turnip or a beet. The end of a potato can be used, too. (We had a lot of vegetables for dinner when I was learning.) After I learned to do it I used the tops of large carrots to add color to my vegetable bouquets.

(1) Cut petal shapes around the lower end (knife pointing down and in). Cut around the remaining vegetable. Cut a one-fourth inch thick "skin" off the vegetable above the petals.

(2) Place the knife about one-fourth inch above a low point of the petal row and cut petals as before. The lowest point of this new row should be above the highest point of the petals below. Again cut off and remove a one-quarter inch thick skin from the vegetable above this new row.

(3) Continue step (2) until you reach the top of the vegetable. You can have four or five rows.

To make a vegetable centerpiece like the one shown in the picture, the carved flowers were placed on 6 inch long wood skewers (Found in oriental stores. Used for

barbecuing.) Scallion (green onion) tops can be slipped over the skewers if the stems are to be seen. These were supported by a pineapple, but a melon would have been suitable. Half a pineapple, cut the long way works well. I have used a pin holder or an oasis block. Various length stems are made by cutting the skewers shorter with kitchen shears. Parsley, cilantro, scallion tops, or chrysanthemum leaves can be used for edible foliage. Strips of cucumber skin can be cut to resemble long blade leaves.

The calla-like flowers in the arrangement shown were made of one-quarter inch thick slices of rutabagas. A small wedge about 1" deep and 1" on the outer edge was cut from the slice. The pointed end of a skewer was pushed through a one-half inch thick round of carrot, then through both sides of the outer edge of the wedge cut in the rutabaga. Several rutabaga petals were used and then pushed into a piece of carrot carved like the center of a flower. If one rutabaga petal is used it looks more calla-like.

All of these vegetable flowers can be kept for several days if covered with damp paper towels and placed in the vegetable bin of the refrigerator. One chef uses a gelatin solution to prolong the life of his vegetable flowers. It is very effective on onion chrysanthemums that usually last one day. (Mix 1 envelope of unflavored gelatin with 1 cup of cold water, add 1 cup of hot water, and mix well.) After they have been soaked in cold water, dip finished flowers in the clear gelatin solution, shake to remove excess, and store in the refrigerator. After using, the carved vegetables should be placed in the refrigerator if they are to be used again.

The palm trees in the picture were made of carrots, the fronds were cut from a yellow bell pepper, and the coconuts were small bunches of red grapes. If green bell peppers are used, the extra green leaves are not needed. Several trees of different heights can be grouped into a coconut grove. The tree in the photo was mounted on a slice of pineapple. A tree or trees can be secured to a half potato island and finished with parsley grass about the base.

Most of the cruise ships have cooks who make attractive displays on and around the foods prepared for buffets. Be sure you take the time to notice these attractive decorations. If enough of the passengers show an interest, usually there will be a demonstration on the ship on one of the sailing days.

If you really get "hooked" on vegetable carving, there are several very good books with good pictures and directions that you might find interesting. Bon appétit! □

BARBARA JONES has been carving vegetables for years. The pictures taken on a recent cruise through the canal inspired this article.

PHOTOGRAPHS by Barbara Jones.



# ORNAMENTAL GRASSES AT SEA WORLD: WORTHY NEWCOMERS

by ROSS LOUCKS

SINCE THE 1970s, a quiet revolution has taken place in American horticulture. Ornamental grasses are being recognized as an exciting and versatile option. The landscape staff at Sea World has been working with grasses for the last decade. Ornamental grasses are now well integrated and prominent features of the park landscape. Visual impact and ease of care combine to make grasses a tremendous addition to any garden.

By definition, "ornamental grasses" include more than just members of the Poaceae (grass family). Plant material in the Cyperaceae (sedges) and Juncaceae (rushes) are included in this group. Turf grasses and the bamboos are excluded. In general, all ornamental grasses have a grass-like appearance.

The potential of ornamental grasses has only recently been explored in this country. Pioneers in this movement include nursery owner Kurt Bluemel of Baldwin, Maryland, who began growing grasses in the mid '60s, years before this plant material gained acceptance. Wolfgang Oehme recognized the value of grasses while working at the Bluemel nursery. He has made grasses a focus of landscape design, working for the firm Oehme, van Sweden and Associates in Washington D.C. Finally, John Greenlee, operating a nursery in Pomona, is a west coast source of material and enthusiasm. Greenlee also maintained a connection with Bluemel before starting his own nursery.

Grasses have been a part of the Sea World landscape since the early 1980s. The collection has grown steadily

to include more than one hundred ornamental grasses. From the large *Miscanthus* varieties to the diminutive fiber optics grass (*Scirpus cernus*), over thirty-five genera are scattered through the park. Initially, mail order from the Bluemel and Greenlee nurseries was the principal source of material. With time, grasses have become more widely available through mainstream nurseries.

Criteria used in selecting appropriate grasses approximate those considered when working with perennial flowering plants. Light preference, foliage/flower color, evergreen vs. deciduous, and time of flowering are preliminary concerns. Eventual size is significant. What starts out as a manageable one-gallon specimen may develop into a seven-foot monster in a year! In addition, one should consider whether a selection has a clumping or spreading growth habit. A grass with a spreading habit (via rhizomes or stolons) may develop into a garden pest.

The ornamental grasses at Sea World have proven to be undemanding in terms of care and culture. One might expect this trait considering the heritage of these plants. The grasses don't require a unique amendment or fertilizer regimen. The standard soil preparation used for other

perennials in a bed seems satisfactory.

Ornamental grasses in the park receive water from overhead sprinklers, although drip irrigation is considered preferable. In fall, some species go dormant, providing striking winter color. These plants should be cut back before late winter. The grasses at Sea World have displayed no pest or disease problems, although the



*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light'  
ablaze in the early morning sun.

Low sun angle and wind enhance the visual impact of grasses.



literature mentions snails and aphids as potential concerns.

When experimenting with a variety of plant material, one expects failures and this has been true with ornamental grasses. The species list of grasses in the park doesn't lack members listed as dead. Also, a small group of grasses seems to have an unthrifty appearance for much of the year. Likely causes for these failures include overwatering and poor adaptation. Losses in the park have been restricted to species and/or varieties. No entire genus has proven to be undesirable.

With all the benefits of ornamental grasses, two negative aspects must be noted. Some grasses are prolific seeders. This is a concern not just because of the mess created in a garden, but also for the potential damage to native plant communities. *Arundo donax* (giant reed) and *Pennisetum setaceum* (fountain grass) are examples of escapees that have turned into statewide pests. Another matter to consider is dormant grasses and the threat of fire at a given site. Cutting plants back early is one possible answer. For both problems, discretion in species selection is essential.

A visitor to Sea World will find grasses throughout the park in many different settings. These plants have a natural fit along path edges. They work well in a mixed perennial flower garden. Grasses have been massed for dramatic effect.

The uses of grasses are unlimited and open to one's imagination. A naturalistic to modern statement may be created with these plants. Grass species have provided food, green lawns, and now a "new" design element in gardening. □

*In the next issue of California Garden outstanding grasses at Sea World will be discussed along with sources of material.*

ROSS LOUCKS is Landscape Supervisor in charge of specialty gardens at Sea World.

Photograph by Ross Loucks

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### *Gleanings . . . continued from page 4*

and store it in a cool, dry area. Come winter, you can repot the bulb again. In the San Diego area the bulb can be planted in the open ground after the flower stalk has been removed.

**CHRISTMAS TREES** — Transplant the tree to a larger pot using a loose soil mix to fill in around the tree ball. It can be planted directly into the open ground. Dig a hole larger than the pot, loosen the soil around the hole (top and sides), place the tree in the hole, and fill around the edge with a loose soil mix. Be sure the top of the rootball is level with the existing surface. A small ring of soil outside the tree drip-line will make sure that water does not run off. The soil should not be dry and not soaked while the roots develop and the plant is becoming acclimated. If you want a traditional tree for the next

holiday season, the tree should be trimmed in June to maintain the traditional shape.

Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) is a slow growing tree that should last for several years by transplanting it into progressively larger pots. If planted in the open ground it will be drought tolerant after it has become acclimated.

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## **CORIANDER, CILANTRO, CHINESE PARSLEY** by ROBERT HORWITZ

DEPENDING ON WHICH CULTURE you prefer or come from, this wonderful herb has three names — coriander, which it is known under primarily in the seed form; Chinese parsley, which is obvious; and cilantro, which has the Mexican connotation. The botanists have the last word in calling the herb *Coriandrum*.

Growing your own herbs has become very fashionable of late, especially amongst those of us that live in a condo or apartment with very limited growing space. If you have a balcony you are much better off, but even growing space in a well-lit kitchen window will allow you to grow herbs. Eight-inch pots are an ideal size and will provide enough space for the herb to produce sufficient quantity to satisfy most cooking needs.

Try coriander as it will grow well in a dry, warm climate that is not too humid, in bright sun, or partial shade. Fill the pot with good soil and your own compost, if you have it; or use a good quality of potting soil that will have good drainage, lots of humus, and will not pack. I would recommend buying a small pot of coriander at the nursery if you are just starting out. This assures a better chance of success. Repot the herb in your pot, tamping the soil well around the root ball. Water it well and only water later when the soil starts to get dry. Too much water will rot the plant. After it gets established, which is manifested by new growth, sparingly feed with a balanced fertilizer, either liquid or granular.

You can start using coriander leaves when the growth reaches about 6 inches. Remember that a little of this herb goes a long way. Be stingy with how much you cut until your taste tells you it is enough. After two months or so, the plant will produce little lilac colored blossoms which can be used for flavoring. Let some of these blossoms mature and they will produce seeds that also are used for flavoring. When the seeds become green and hard they can be harvested and dried for later use. Store them in dry air-proof containers.

The leaves do not freeze or dry well, so they must be used fresh. Try them in your favorite stir-fry, minced in guacamole, or on fresh green beans that have been sautéed in olive oil with a pinch of garlic salt. MMMMM! □



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1995**

February 21; April 18  
June 5

5:45 p.m.

Casa del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park, San Diego

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6:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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**FOUNDATION, INC**

Pres: Joyce Wilder 436-3036  
P. O. Box 230005  
Encinitas CA 92023-0005

**SAN DIEGO ARTISTIC PLANT/LANDSCAPE**

Pres: Lit Phan 445-7410  
3rd Sat - 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
Casa del Prado, Room 104

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**FOUNDATION**

Pres: Harold S. Berg 466-1445  
2320 Lawton Drive  
Lemon Grove CA 91945-3337

**SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL**

Chr: Barbara Stevens 940-0902  
33 Via Larga Vista  
Bonsall CA 92003

1st Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

**THE BOTANIC GARDEN OF SAN DIEGO**

Pres: Rudy Cesena 566-7557  
11410 Caminito Armita  
San Diego CA 92131-2125

**GARDEN CLUBS:**

**BERNARDO GARDENER'S CLUB**

Mrs. Maxine Schimmel 451-3482  
18193 Calle Estepona  
San Diego CA 92128-1580  
3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Joslyn Senior Center,  
Rancho Bernardo

**BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**

Pres: Mrs. Lillian Castagna 267-6808  
5240 Margaret Drive  
Bonita CA 91902-2108  
2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor,  
Sweetwater Road

**BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB**

Pres: Toni Hoppe 435-5669  
741 Cabrillo Avenue  
Coronado CA 92118-2915

**CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB**

Pres: Mrs. Amos Cargal (Bea) 422-8970  
267 Oxford Street  
Chula Vista CA 91911-3352  
3rd Wed - 1:00 pm, Senior Center

**CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB**

Pres: Virginia Soderberg 582-7098  
6197 Arno Drive  
San Diego CA 92120-4628

1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Recreation Club House

**CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**

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P. O. Box 180188  
Coronado CA 92118-0188

**CROWN GARDEN CLUB**

Pres: Mrs. Robert Sheridan 435-1938  
111 Alder Street  
Coronado CA 92118-2422

4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

**DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB**

Pres: Betty Gilliam 749-0039  
P. O. Box 123  
Valley Center CA 92082-0123

2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

**ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB**

Pres: Josephine Killingsworth 598-7157  
1658 Promontory Ridge Way  
Vista CA 92083-5435

**FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB**

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P. O. Box 1702  
Fallbrook CA 92088

**FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB**

Chrm: Mrs. Angela Talbot 454-9200  
1738 Castellana  
La Jolla CA 92037-3838

2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

**GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB**

Pres: Mrs. Dolores Smith 464-2457  
7443 Oriem Avenue  
La Mesa CA 91941-7730

2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive,  
La Mesa

**LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB**

Pres: Marcia Wilcox 488-6467  
653 Carla Way  
La Jolla CA 92037-8013

3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J.Lutheran Church

**LAS JARDINERAS**

Pres: Mrs. Gretchen Allen 222-3643  
356 San Geronio Street  
San Diego CA 92106-3342

3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

Pres: Mr. Patrick Shields 724-3749  
1215 Amador Avenue  
Vista CA 92083-5621

4th Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community

College, Horticulture Building #T-700

**MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB**

Pres: Renate Ritter 945-1287  
3538 Turquoise Lane  
Oceanside CA 92056-4870

3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community

College, Horticulture Building #T8

**PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB**

Pres: Mrs. Dale S. Munda 272-9727  
1544 Oliver Avenue  
San Diego CA 92109-5321

2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Recreation Center

All area codes are 619 unless otherwise noted.

# CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Pres: Mrs. W. Cross (Marilyn) 851 Cordova Street San Diego CA 92107-4252 2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Westminster Presby Church	226-6441	PLANT SOCIETIES: <i>AFRICAN VIOLETS</i> HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Pres: Pat Akers 219 Loma Vista Place El Cajon CA 92021-4235 3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Wells Park Ctr, El Cajon	579-1975	DAHLIA SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY Pres: Gerald Lohmann 6616 Rockglen Avenue San Diego CA 92111-4108 4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado	279-5135
POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Pres: Lou Ann Unger P. O. Box 27 Poway CA 92064-5259	788-1393	SAN DIEGO DAYTIME AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Pres: Beverly Decker 373 Hihill Way El Cajon CA 92020-2935 2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Christ United Methodist Church	442-7484	EPHYLLUM SAN DIEGO EPHYLLUM SOCIETY Pres: Mrs. Margaret Pethley 14426 Calle Nublado San Diego CA 92129-3811 2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado	484-4189
RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB Pres: Mr. Harold Sexton Hort Chrm: Mrs. Carol Streeter P. O. Box 483 Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067-0483 2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Garden Club	756-1554	BAMBOO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY Sec: George Shor 2655 Ellentown Road La Jolla, CA 92037-1147	453-0334	FERN SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY Pres: Phyllis Bates P. O. Box 230502 Encinitas CA 92023-0502 3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado	436-1419
SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB Pres: Mrs. Art Kuehn 5110 Leicester Way San Diego CA 92120-1242 4th Tue - 9:30 am, Home of Members	582-0230	BEGONIA ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY Pres: Eileen Clause 5658 Linda Rosa Avenue La Jolla CA 92037-7538 2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Home of Members	459-4706	FRUIT CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS Pres: Saul Goldstein 976 Barrett Avenue Chula Vista CA 91911 4th Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado	427-7775
SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB Pres: Mrs. Grant S. Baze P. O. Box 541 Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067-0541 4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens	756-3443	PALOMAR BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY Pres: Ingaborg Foo 1050 Melrose Way Vista CA 92083-6504	724-4871	FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANTS SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND SHADE PLANT SOCIETY Pres: Mr. Carl Hicks 14247 Mariana Drive Poway CA 92064-2834 2nd Mon - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado	748-0686
SCRIPPS MESA GARDEN CLUB Pres: Cindy Drake 9842 Hibert Street #276 San Diego CA 92131-1096 4th Mon - 6:00 pm, Scripps Ranch Library	271-8933	SAN MIGUEL BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY Pres: Mrs. Eleanor Calkins 910 Fern Street Escondido CA 92027-1708 Last Sat - 10:30 am, Home of Members	746-4743	GERANIUM SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY Pres: Cynthia Pardoe 1105 Randon Road El Cajon CA 92020-7742 2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado	442-1944
THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA Pres: Mrs. W. Keith Garrick (Pat) 6252 Lance Place San Diego CA 92120-3713 4th Thu - 1:00 pm, United Methodist Church	287-0282	BONSAI SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. Pres: Lucinda Grove 3155 Vista de Chaparros Jamul CA 91935-3318 2nd Sun - 11:00 am, Casa del Prado	669-0542	HEMEROCALLIS SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY Pres: Ms. D. D. Herman-Walker P. O. Box 131286 San Diego CA 92170-1286 1st Sat - 10:00 am, Quail Gardens	263-5324
THE VISTA GARDEN CLUB Pres: Mr. William Winters 3030 Winters Hill Vista CA 92084-6570 1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center	727-5505	BROMELIAD BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK Pres: Stephen Johnson 13368 Darview Lane San Diego CA 92129-2388 2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado	484-5948	THE HERB CLUB Pres: Judy Dunning 15255 Lyons Valley Road Jamul CA 91935-3416 3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Call for location	669-0222
IKEBANA SCHOOLS ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER Pres: Hanuko Crawford 10411 San Carlos Drive Spring Valley CA 91978-1034	660-2046	SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY Pres: Gayle Ver Steeg 1421 Yost Drive San Diego CA 92109 4th Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado	488-1661	HOYA SAN DIEGO HOYA GROUP c/o: Harriette Schapiro 5217 Cassandra Lane San Diego CA 92109-1314 North County	273-4267
IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 Pres: Jane G. Salomon 7730 Revelle Drive La Jolla CA 92037-3535 4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado	452-1059	CACTUS & SUCCULENT PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY Pres: Ronald A. Chisum P. O. Box 840 Escondido CA 92033-0840 4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido	753-3651	IRIS SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY Pres: Hazel E. Carson 6177 Tooley Street San Diego CA 92114-1315 2nd Sat - 10:00 am Casa de las Campanas, RB	264-8688
IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 2822 Walker Drive San Diego CA 92123-3056	278-5689	SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY Pres: Mr. Joseph Betzler P. O. Box 33181 San Diego CA 92163-3181 2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado	239-0804	IVY THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY Pres: Johnny Stellini 2775 A Street #C San Diego, CA 92102-1043 1st Mon - Casa del Prado	233-4338
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER Pres: Connie Davis P. O. Box 500765 San Diego CA 92150-0765 2nd Tues - 10:00 am	672-0128	CAMELLIA SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY Pres: Dean Turney 631 W. Pennsylvania Avenue San Diego CA 92103-3949 3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado	299-5418		
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland 2936 Havasupai Avenue San Diego CA 92117-1641	276-4667				
SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH Pres: Mrs. Leroy Lahey 2829 Flax Drive San Diego CA 92154-2160	429-6198				



## CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

### NATIVE PLANTS

#### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Bertha McKinley 270-9573  
P. O. Box 1390  
San Diego, CA 92112  
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Donna Zimmer 480-4750  
1428 Via Valente  
Escondido, CA 92029  
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - St. Bart's Episcopal, RB

### ORCHID

#### CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH

Pres: Craig Johnson 721-5547  
1972 Ivy Road  
Oceanside, CA 92054-5677  
3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club

#### SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Richard Chambers 280-8939  
P. O. Box 161020  
San Diego CA 92176-1020  
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

### ORGANIC

#### BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Mary Smith 421-7730  
1638 Gotham  
Chula Vista CA 91913-2617  
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

### ROSE

#### EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Miriam Yoder 669-6977  
13855 Proctor Valley Road  
Jamul CA 91935-3122  
1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members

#### SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Hal Schalles 223-5290  
P. O. Box 86124  
San Diego CA 92138-6124  
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

### TREES

#### PEOPLE FOR TREES

Pres: Curt Lutz 224-4423  
932 H Avenue  
Coronado CA 92118-2524

### WATER GARDEN

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

Contact: Walter Pagels 582-5408  
6073 Lancaster Drive  
San Diego CA 92120-4536

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS 459-0316  
P. O. Box 2711  
La Jolla CA 92038-2711

### AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor  
*California Garden*, Casa del Prado, Room 105,  
Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619. Call  
232-5762.

Deadline for Mar-Apr issue: Jan 15, 1995.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1995

Our January tour will take us to Pasadena. Ambassador College is offering a guided tour of its internationally acclaimed landscaped grounds. Included on the campus are two mansions, which we will visit. Our luncheon will be served at the college complex.

Our afternoon will be spent at the very beautiful Gamble House (think Proctor and Gamble) and rose garden. This magnificent mansion, with elegant decor, leaded stained glass, and indoor/outdoor living area, is custom designed for luxury living.

We will arrive back in San Diego by 6:30PM, traffic permitting.

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### PICK-UPS

- ☐ Red Lobster Park and Ride, Grossmont Center, La Mesa 7:00AM  
☐ Fashion Valley, SW corner near Penney's 7:30AM  
☐ Hadley's at Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad 8:30AM

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